

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 05706 121830Z

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 IO-14 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AF-10

ARA-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NASA-02 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-02

PRS-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-15 /154 W

-----024173 122306Z /65

R 121735Z JUL 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9089

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS GENEVA 5706

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, CCD

SUBJECT: CCD: 752ND PLENARY MEETING, JULY 12, 1977

1. SUMMARY: IN CCD PLENARY ON JULY 12, UK REP MADE A THOROUGH STATEMENT ON CW, RESPONDING TO PREVIOUS COMMENTS ON THE BRITISH CW DRAFT CONVENTION. THE UK REP SAID IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR CCD TO ESTABLISH A CW WORKING GROUP LATE IN THE SESSION; IN MEANTIME TECHNICAL EXPERTS COULD DISCUSS SUCH QUESTIONS AS DEFINITION OF CW AGENTS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION.
END SUMMARY

2. BEFORE TURNING TO CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW), UK REP (ASHE) BRIEFLY ADDRESSED THE QUESTION OF A COMPREHENSIVE TEST
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 05706 121830Z

BAN (CTB), SAYING THAT HMG IS IN FAVOR OF A CTB, PROVIDED THAT IT "CAN BE ADEQUATELY VERIFIED AND ENSURES THAT PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS ARE NOT USED TO OBTAIN MILITARY BENEFITS". FURTHER, THE UK REP NOTED THAT THE UK WOULD BE PARTICIPATING WITH THE US AND USSR IN CONSULTATIONS ON CTB IN GENEVA BEGINNING JULY 13.

3. ON THE SCOPE OF A CW PROHIBITION, THE UK REP SAID THAT DEFOLIANTS HAVE IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL USES AND THUS COULD NOT BE BANNED AND DESTROYED IN THE SAME WAY AS SINGLE-PURPOSE CW AGENTS; INSTEAD, THE UK REP INDICATED, MISUSE OF DEFOLIANTS COULD BE PROHIBITED BY SOME SEPARATE AGREEMENT.

4. THE UK REP ALSO STATED THAT RIOT CONTROL AGENTS (RCA'S) SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM A CW BAN, BECAUSE ALTERNATIVE CROWD-CONTROL METHODS COULD BE MUCH MORE HARMFUL. IN REFERRING TO AGENTS WHICH CAUSE "LONG-TERM PHYSIOLOGICAL HARM," ARTICLE I OF THE BRITISH DRAFT WAS MEANT TO EXCLUDE RCA'S; A SUPPLEMENTARY PROTOCOL WOULD CLARIFY THE MEANING OF "LONG-TERM."

5. HOWEVER, THE UK REP INDICATED FULL AGREEMENT ON THE NEED TO INCLUDE BINARY WEAPONS IN A CW BAN, AND STATED ACCEPTANCE IN PRINCIPLE OF ANY IMPROVEMENT TO THE BRITISH DRAFT WHICH WOULD MAKE THIS CLEARER.

6. TO REDUCE THE OVERLAP BETWEEN CW AGENTS TO BE BANNED AND CHEMICALS USED FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, THE UK REP SAID THAT, AS HAS BEEN SUGGESTED BY THE FRG, SUCH CHARACTERISTICS AS SHALF-LIFE AND VOLATILITY MUST ALSO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED BY PREPARING A PROTOCOL TO ARTICLE I OF THE BRITISH DRAFT, PERHAPS USING THE FORMAT SUGGESTED BY JAPAN.

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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 GENEVA 05706 121830Z

7. AS ALTERNATIVES TO HAVING CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES (CBM'S) TAKE EFFECT ON SIGNATURE, THE UK REP SAID THAT CBM'S COULD BE PART OF A PROTOCOL WHICH WOULD ENTER INTO FORCE BEFORE THE CONVENTION AS A WHOLE, OR THAT THE CONVENTION ITSELF COULD ESTABLISH SEPARATE PHASES DURING WHICH DIFFERENT OBLIGATIONS WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED.

8. ON MONITORING COMMERCIAL CHEMICAL PLANTS, THE UK REP ADVOCATED LIMITING SYSTEMATIC REPORTING AND INSPECTION OF FACTORIES PRODUCING CHEMICALS CLOSELY ANALOGOUS TO THE MOST TOXIC NERVE AGENTS, WITH RANDOM CHECKS OF OTHER FACILITIES. SATELLITE MONITORING, THE UK REP STATED, MIGHT PROVIDE LIMITED DETECTION "OF CHEMICAL FIELD TESTS OF KNOWN AGENTS IN KNOWN AREAS," BUT HE CAUTIONED AGAINST THE VIEW THAT THEY COULD DO MORE. NATIONAL MEANS OF VERIFICATION CAN PLAY A PART IN THE OVERALL CW VERIFICATION REGIME, THE UK REP SAID, BUT "BY THEMSELVES THEY ARE INSUFFICIENT."

9. WITH REGARD TO DESTRUCTION OF CW STOCKPILES, THE UK REP EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WILL LEAD TO

AGREEMENT ON TECHNIQUES AND ON THE AMOUNT OF TIME NEEDED.

10. IN CONCLUSION, THE UK REP MENTIONED THE QUESTIONS OF A CW WORKING GROUP TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS AND OF OTHER TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS IN CCD THIS SUMMER: QUOTE THERE WILL CERTAINLY BE A NEED FOR SUCH A WORKING GROUP WHEN WE ARE READY TO DISCUSS THE DETAIL OF A CONVENTION BUT I SUGGEST THAT IT MIGHT BE MORE SENSIBLE TO WAIT UNTIL THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE IN A POSITION TO PLAY THEIR PART. IF ALL GOES WELL, HOWEVER, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE CCD TO ESTABLISH SUCH A GROUP AND FOR IT TO HAVE AN OPENING MEETING TO DISCUSS ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE TOWARD THE END OF THIS SESSION. IN THE MEANTIME, THERE IS WORK THAT THE CCD ITSELF COULD USEFULLY BE DOING: UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 GENEVA 05706 121830Z

FOR EXAMPLE, WE MIGHT ARRANGE FOR OUR TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO MEET TO DISCUSS THE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS OF THE DEFINITION OF AGENTS TO BE BANNED AND THE TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES THERE MIGHT BE OVER DESTRUCTION OF STOCKPILES. UNQUOTE SORENSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHEMICAL WARFARE, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA05706
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770248-0243
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770768/aaaacgws.tel
Line Count: 140
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2815e76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1892999
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CCD: 752ND PLENARY MEETING, JULY 12, 1977
TAGS: PARM, UK, CCD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2815e76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009